with the result that an ether is formed from two hydroxyl-substituted organic compound molecules in a dehydration reaction, an acetal or ketal is formed by reaction between a hydroxyl-substituted organic compound molecule and a molecule of a said carbonyl compound and alkene product is produced by dehydration of a single hydroxyl-substituted organic compound molecule, wherein the conditions of temperature, pressure, and flow rate are controlled according to the product to be obtained, and wherein each of R¹ to R¹¹ is independently selected from: hydrogen or hydroxyl; an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, or aryl; or a heterocyclic group.

- 4. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the total number of alcohol groups within the first organic compound does not exceed three.
- 5. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is performed under supercritical conditions.
- 6. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the first organic compound of formula R¹CH₂OH, R¹R²CHOH, or R¹R²R³COH, and optionally one or more of the second compounds of formulae R⁴CH₂OH, R⁵R⁶CHOH, R⁷R⁸R⁹COH, or R¹⁰R¹¹CO, is dissolved in a fluid selected from: carbon dioxide, propane, an alkene, an alkyne, hydrocarbon, halocarbon, nitrogen, or a mixture of any of these.
- 7. (Amended) A process according to claim1, wherein the first organic compound is the supercritical or near-critical fluid.
- 8. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is selected from: zeolites, metal oxides, molecular sieves, clays, or sulfonic acid derivatives.
- 10. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst includes a promoter.

11. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the acidity of the catalyst is provided by a sulfonic acid group.

12. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reactant molecules are

aliphatic and/or aromatic alcohols.

13. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the product is an ether.

15. (Amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein an aliphatic alcohol is

converted into an alkene.

16. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the reactant(s) is(are)

from a single homogeneous phase.

Examination of claims 1-16 is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by he

current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS

TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

If any fees in addition to those submitted with the Application are required,

Applicants request that any such fee required be charged to Deposit Account No.

19-4972.

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Respectfully submitted,

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